AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) A method for ~~rapidly~~ decontaminating contamination containing biological spores, comprising the steps of:

contacting the contamination with a spore germination composition comprising from about 10 mM to about 150 mM dipicolinic acid and an effective amount of calcium ions effective to cause rapid germination of the spores; and,

concurrently, applying a decontaminating solution to kill the germinated spores.

2.-3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50 mM to about 90 mM dipicolinic acid.

5.   (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the calcium ions comprise calcium chloride.

6.   (Cancelled)

7.   (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 60 mM to about 80 mM calcium chloride.

8.-9.　(Cancelled)

10.　(Currently amended):　The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50% w/w to about 98% w/w water of the total spore germination composition.

11.　(original):　The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition further comprises a surfactant.

12.　(original):　The method of claim 11, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactant and nonionic surfactant.

13.　(original):　The method of claim 11, wherein the surfactant comprises at least one carbon chain of from about six carbon members or more.

14.　(original):　The method of claim 12, wherein the surfactant comprises from about 5% w/w to about 15% w/w of the total spore germination composition.

15.　(original):　The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises enzymes.

16.　(original):　The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises a peroxygen compound.

17.-22.   (Cancelled)

23.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 60 mM to about 80 mM dipicolinic acid.